

Application No.: 09/981,860

Docket No.: JCLA6417

REMARKS**Present Status of Application**

Claims 1-16 remain pending in the application. The Office Action mailed May 08, 2003, objected drawings and the specification for informalities. Claims 8-16 were rejected under 35 USC§112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-10 and 15-16 were rejected under 35 USC§102(b) as being anticipated by Hinotani et al. (US Patent No. 4,920,298). Claims 11-14 were rejected under 35 USC§103(a) as being unpatentable over Hinotani et al..

The specification and drawings have been amended to correct typing errors and informalities. Claims 1, 2, 4, 8-11 have been amended, for clarification purposes, while claim 12 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added to the application by the amendments made to the specification, claims and drawings. This Amendment is promptly filed to place the above-captioned case in condition for allowance. After entering the amendments, a notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

Discussions of objections for drawings and the specification

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference signs not mentioned in the description. The specification was objected because of informalities.

The specification has been amended as suggested by the Office Action. Figures 4A, 6A, 6B and 9A have been amended and enclosed. Submitted for the Examiner's approval are proposed drawing changes, with the corrections indicated in red ink and revised formal drawing will be

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submitted in compliance with U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Guidelines, upon allowance of the present application.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections are respectfully requested.

Discussions for 35 USC§112 rejection

Claims 8-16 were rejected under 35 USC§112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claim 8 has been amended to correct the clerical errors. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Discussion for 35 USC§102 and 103 rejections

Claims 1-10 and 15-16 were rejected under 35 USC§102(b) as being anticipated by Hinotani et al. (US Patent No. 4,920,298).

Claims 1, 4 and 8 have been amended to provide more descriptions for clarification according to the present invention. As amended, independent claims clearly recite respectively:

*1. A planar fluorescent lamp, comprising of:
a first panel, having a first fluorescent layer thereon;
a second panel, having a second fluorescent layer thereon;
a glass rim, joined with edges of the first and second panels, wherein the glass rim has a plurality of electrode seats, and;
two solid electrode structures, each having an electrode panel and two electrode leads at two sides of the electrode panel, wherein each electrode lead has a neck region.*

*4. A planar fluorescent lamp, comprising of:
a first panel, having a first fluorescent layer thereon;
a second panel, having a second fluorescent layer thereon;
a glass rim joined with edges of the first and second panels, wherein the glass rim has a plurality of electrode seats, and;
two solid electrode structures, each having a line electrode and two electrode leads at two*

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sides of the line electrode, wherein each line electrode includes a bent serration structure.

*8. A planar fluorescent lamp, comprising of:
a first panel, having a first fluorescent layer thereon;
a second panel, having a second fluorescent layer thereon;
a glass rim joined with edges of the first and second panels, wherein the glass rim has a plurality of recesses, and;
a first solid rod electrode structure and a second solid rod electrode structure, wherein the first and second solid rod electrode structures are parallel to each other and closely attached to the glass rim via the recesses.*

Obviously, Hinotani does not disclose a solid electrode structure or a solid rod electrode structure as recited in the amended claims, even if considering the panels 6,8 as comparable to the panels of the present invention. Further, Hinotani fails to disclose the sold electrode structure having an electrode panel or the sold electrode structure having a line electrode as claimed in this invention.

As clearly shown in Hinotani's Figs. 1 and 5-6, the discharge electrode 28 is a channel structure, having a **hollow crater** in the middle. In fact, the electrode 28 is recessed in cross-section, in the form of U-shaped (a channel) (fig. 8), C-shaped (semicircular) (Fig. 9) or V-shaped (fig. 10) in section (Col. 3, lines 47-52), while auxiliary electrodes 30 are fitted into the cavity, at each end of the discharge electrode 28. The structure of Hinotani's electrode (28+30) is very different to the electrode structures claimed in this invention and is evidently not the rod electrode structure, or the electrode panel or the line electrode. Furthermore, due to the shape of discharge electrode 28 together with auxiliary electrodes 30 (similar to a prolonged tank structure), the discharge is produced from the concave inner surface, which is contrary to this invention.

As a result, Applicant submits that amended claims 1, 4 and 8 patently defines over the

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prior art and the cited reference. For at least the foregoing reasons, all pending claims patently define over the cited references and should be allowed.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection under §102 is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-14 were rejected under 35 USC§103(a) as being unpatentable over Hinotani et al..

Claim 12 has been cancelled. Dependent claims 11, 13-14 are submitted to be patentably distinguishable over the Hinotani reference for at least the same reasons as independent claim 8, from which these claims respectively depend, as well as for the additional features that these claims recite.

In view of the above amendment and discussions, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejections is respectfully requested.

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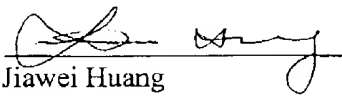
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all pending claims are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. PATENTS

Date: 9/8/2003

4 Venture, Suite 250
Irvine, CA 92618
Tel.: (949) 660-0761
Fax: (949) 660-0809


Jiawei Huang
Registration No. 43,330

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